REMARKS

priority document in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §119. In accordance with the Examiner's

request, Applicants have modified Figure 9 to indicate that it is a conventional device.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of Applicants foreign

Claims 4 and 11. Applicants submit that all claims currently stand in condition for

allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections under

35 U.S.C. §102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art inventions of

record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach of suggest Applicants

claimed invention. More specifically, Applicants note that the Tanaka reference merely

discloses a driving method wherein either an all-pixel read-out mode in which signal charges

of all pixels generated in the pixels are read individually at the same time, or in a thin read-

out mode in which the signal charges are read only from a portion of vertical pixel columns

formed by the devices. Tanaka merely describes frequency variation for varying a driving

frequency depending on the operating mode in order to selectively read parts of vertical pixel

columns only. Applicants presently claimed invention is a much more sophisticated read-out

device which more flexibly allows specific selection of pixels in both rows and columns. The

art of record fails to either teach or suggest this advance.

In conventional CCD type imagers, pixel charges of a horizontal pixel line are all read

out at the same time and cannot be selected because each transfer electrode of the vertical

page 10 of 12

Appl. No. 09/834,431

Amdt. Dated February 15, 2005

Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2004

transistor and read-out gate electrode located between output portions of the vertical registers and the horizontal register are common for pixel charges in a given horizontal pixel line. There is simply no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding a device wherein pixel signals are both read from rows and columns as in the instant application.

In conclusion, and based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1794.

Respectfully/submitted,

Date:

Kobert J. Depke

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LIL

Reg. #37,607

131 S. Dearborn, 30th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60603

Tel: (31/2)/263-3600

Attorney for Applicants

Appl. No. 09/834,431 Amdt. Dated February 15, 2005 Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2004



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States

Postal Service as First Class Mail on <u>February 15, 2005</u> in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Attorney for Applicants

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 9.

The sheet which includes Fig. 9 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9. The designation Prior Art has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Change

SOLID-STATE P:CKUP APPARATUS, ITS DRIVING METHOD AND CAMERA SYSTEM inventor: Keiji Mabuchi e al.

ANNOTATED SHEET

U.S. Appl. No. 09/834,431

Robert J. Depke, Holland & Knight LLP - (312) 263-3600

6/6

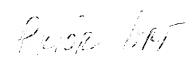


FIG. 9

